

M. May 23/67 1261496.

THE

Importance of Drefs;

R OR,

FEMALE RIVALRY:

BEING

A. Real HISTORY, with the Proper Names
of the Parties,

In a LETTER from a Gentleman who lives at the
Scene of the Transaction.

Injurie
Suspicionēs, Inimicitie, Inducia
Bellum, Pax rursum.

L O N D O N:

Printed for M. SHEEPY, under the *Royal-Exchange*; M. COOPER, at the *Globe*, in *Pater-noster-row*, and J. SWAN, over-against *Notthumberland-house* in the *Strand*.
1752. [Price 6d.]

Importance of Dress;

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STATE RIVER

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1. The first of these is the fact that the



[Faint circular stamp or watermark visible in the background]

2. 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621,

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1952



FEMALE RIVALRY:

O R

The Importance of Dress.

Dear S I R,



WAS lately under the most terrible Uneasiness for some Days ; your Friendship I know takes Alarm at this, and you conclude from the very uncommon Length of my Letter, that something very extraordinary must be the Matter ; but Thanks be to Heaven for its gracious Interposition, to avert the Combustions which would naturally follow from the Violence and Obstinacy of our Passions ; the Storm is blown over and my Apprehensions are quite dissipated : However, though the Issue has been better than my Fears ; to leave you in the Dark as to the Cause of them, would be an unhandsome Return to your Concern for my Welfare, and

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having frightened you, it is but fair I should divert you. Here then I send you a formal Narrative of the Rise, Progress and Termination of an Affair, which threatened the Subversion of every thing that is dear to a social Temper, and had already put me upon Thoughts of a speedy Flight from the Seat of Discord by changing my Residence.

You are too desirous of contributing to the Entertainment of your Friends, after reading this, to confine it in your Scrutore ; the Men it cannot fail of diverting extremely, and the Ladies may reap another Advantage from it : To them it will be *Delectando pariterque monendo* ; only, pray, conceal the Name of the Town ; as for the *Dramatis Personæ*, their Names are to be found in every Province throughout *France*.

About two Leagues from a genteel Country Town, in the South of *France*, is a Wood, laid out in many broad Walks terminating in a Centre spreading itself into a spacious Plain, of flowery Meadows, through which a Rivulet gently serpentines ; to this delightful Spot resort all the fashionable Company of the Town on Sundays and Holidays.

The Place being the Seat of a Presidial (or Court of Judicature) a provincial Bailliwick, and a Tribunal of Waters and Forests, did not want Lawyers whose Wives would with

a very ill Grace reproach the gay Parisians with an excessive Love of Dress and Pleasure; with these figured two Collectors of the Revenue incommoded with flaunting Partners, carrying their Crests equal to those of many Gentlemen of small Fortunes, who had chose this agreeable Town for their Residence.

At this frequented Rendezvous, the Gentlemen appeared on Horse-back, the Ladies in little open Curricles, usually drawn by Horses, hired indeed of the neighbouring Farmers, but with very sumptuous Harnesses, Trappings, and other Ornaments; though to abate the Expence, which was carried to a most profuse Emulation, two Ladies joined in the Equipment of a Curricule.

M. de Melleville, the President or Chief Justice of the Presidial, a staid grave Gentleman and some Years past his best, had recently taken to Wife a blooming sprightly Beauty, when the Governor of the Bailliwick brought thither from *Paris*, as united to him in Conjugal Bands, a Female of the same Age and Temper, of a charming Person; and as allied to the Capital, full of her own Breeding, her Skill in fine Arts and consummate Knowledge of the Ceremonial.

The young *Governante*, whose Name was Madam de St. Aymar, had been brought up at *Paris*, under an antiquated Aunt of hers, Wife to an Attorney; who with a Sedulity

and Eagerness which deserved a better Subject (though all her Pains were fully answered) had instilled into her Pupil the same Desire and Aptitude to please, which had been the predominant Disposition of her Youth (and what surely closed every Lesson) the never failing Instruments in the Conduct of many Designs, wherein Love, Ambition and Revenge, were deeply interested. Madam *de St. Aymar* was an artful Coquette, and delighted in a showy Appearance at the Expence of others, but by the Happiness of a natural Discretion, did not imbibe the more vicious Documents of her Aunt; never going further than verbal Gallantry; and for this, few were better qualified, being Mistress of a ready Wit, a lively Expression, excessively sportive, airy, and trifling; if her Lot had been cast amongst good Company, she might probably have distinguished herself in it, but for want of this decisive Advantage, an extravagant Mimickry of the high-life Behaviour, betrayed her into such Affectations that she became insupportable to the plain Country Ladies.

St. Aymar, the Husband of this volatile Creature, who was just turned of Forty, indulgently overlooked many Levities in his Wife, on account of her Youth, from the firm and well grounded Opinion he entertained of her Discretion in Essentials; but the Modicity of his Income, which did not exceed a tolerable

rable Competency, obliged him to put an early Cheek upon her extreme Propensity to indiscrete Expence.

If Madam *de Melleville* was of a more grave Turn of Mind than Madam *de St. Aymar*, she had not a Grain less of Coquetry in her, the Ridicule of which was heightened by all the fastuous Carriage of an unpolished Country-Gentlewoman, who thinks herself the handsomest, and knows her Husband to be the most eminent Personage of the Town. The Judge being taken up with the Affairs of his Office and pleased with her domestic Oeconomy, which was her only valuable Quality, indulged her in every pleasurable Article at the first Intimation; nor did he greatly dislike the Distance at which she kept the most fashionable Women, who she took care should at all times preserve a due Sense of her Husband's Superiority.

But this Haughtiness relented at the first Sight of a Girl of Paris-mould, and she condescended to think that it would be no Disgrace to admit *St. Aymar*, as a Partner in her Curricie; an Honour in which many Competitors had been disappointed: Thus, an unreserved Intimacy immediately commenced between the Governante and the Judge's Lady, and lasted near a whole Twelvemonth; (a Constancy betwixt two Beauties, to which antient and modern History does not afford a Parallel) when by a Collision of Interests in
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the most sensible Point, this extraordinary Harmony suffered an Interruption if not a total Extinction, however varnished over with every specious Art of Insincerity.

Madam *de St. Aymar* had for some Time observed with a Heart-felt Concern, the Decay of their Horse's Decorations, and after maturely revolving this important Matter, she took upon her to propose to Madam *de Melleville*, that they should join for a new Set: Do, my Dear, said she, only cast your Eyes about and look on those of many, who, I hope, are not to be compared to us; our Honour requires it, let me send for a new Set from *Paris*, I have an Aunt there, than whom that City does not afford a Woman of a more exquisite Taste; the Quality can buy nothing without her. Madam *de Melleville* though not a little tenacious, piqued by Honour, gave her Consent: But in their Precipitation they forgot to agree about the Colours. Madam *de St. Aymar* was no sooner at home, than she sat down to accelerate the Gratifications of her girlish Vanity. The first Article of her Letter, was a Desire that her Aunt would send her a Rose-coloured Lustring Sack trimmed to the Top of the Mode; to such a bright Colour nothing in her Fancy would suit better than green and white Reins, Aigrettes and Tossels for the Horses, and with Raptures anticipated the Eclat such a slightly Contrast would add to her Appearance, It

It never once came into her Mind, that her Partner in the Curricie was no less concerned in this Decision than herself, and that the more it distinguished the one, the more would it irritate the other; away went the Letter. This being dispatched, other Cares no less interesting engrossed her Thoughts, so that she never acquainted Madam *de Melleville* of the Contents of the Letter, till an Answer came that the Things would be with her by the following Monday's Coach; and at a more proper Season they could not come, the Airings commencing within a few Days.

The News of speedy Relief to a besieged Place could not elevate the Inhabitants more than this Answer did the mercurial Governante: she flew to the Judge's House with this transporting News, and said to Madam *de Melleville* with all the Hurry of Exultation, Now my Dear we shall look like Ourselves, next Monday brings us our Horses Furniture. Mighty well, I suppose you begged the good Lady at *Paris* to be very dispatchful in your Commission, answered Madam *de Melleville* coldly enough, but pray what Colour has your Aunt's exquisite Taste provided for us? I myself ordered them to be green and white, replied Madam *de St. Aymar*. Good Lack! green and white! You yourself! a fine Business truly, interrupted the Judge's Lady, with a splenetic Warmth; pray was not I fit to be consulted

consulted in the Choice? Suppose, for it may well be the Case, that your fine white and green should not suit with the Colour of a Sack which I expect by the same Carriage; for instance, if my Sack should prove a Blue or a Green, either lighter or deeper than these Harnesses of your directing, where am I then? Is it to be thought that I'll expose myself with two Colours that don't show by each other, or tricked up in the same as our Beasts; and allow me to declare, That if Matters turn out so, who will may pay for White and Green.

Bless me! was ever the like heard! replied the sprightly *St. Aymar*, scared out of her little Wits; a fine thing, truly, for my Lady Judge to refuse paying her Share of what was sent for by her own Agreement. Oh! Oh! thank God, there are Ways to make those that won't, and we will have a fair Trial of Skill——At this Sally, a neutral Acquaintance of both interposed to prevent any immediate Rupture. “Dear Ladies, softly, why these high Words before any Cause of Resentment appears? stay at least till Monday, all may be well; I am sure if the Colour of *Madam de Melleville's* Sack should suit with these Trappings, which I wish to God it may; you will be infinitely concerned that you should forget yourselves at such a Rate.” The Litigants had Temper enough left to acquiesce

in the Wisdom of this Advice and composed themselves into tolerable good Humour.

The Vehicle appropriated for these Excursions (originally an Invention of Madam *de Melleville*) was a wicker Arm-chair with two Seats, the Work of a Basket-maker in the Town, and suspended on a very light Carriage, procured from a neighbouring City; before it, was fixed a Stool for some happy Driver; the Horses for whom such costly Decorations were prepared, were very small; for the Tillage of the Soil, which bears some relation in Lightness to the Heads of the Women of this fantastical Country, requires only a kind of Hobbies, for which it is no less noted. That a new Conveniency should not excite Desires in the other Women is not supposeable; it excited the most passionate Impatience—All the Women who affected Show and Pleasure, and with these all Climates swarm, led their Husbands weary Lives till they had a share in a Wicker Curricule prettily ornamented, and a genteel Horse Furniture to appear at these Airings, from which for a Person of any Rank to be habitually absent, was a sure Sign of Stupidity or Stinginess, or, what was still a more intolerable Reproach, of narrow Circumstances.

As the Ladies were quite exposed in these new fashioned Curricles, finistrous Invention! Source of ruinous Expences,
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domestic Complaints, and implacable Discord! it is not to be wondered at, that they placed their chief Glory in the Elegancy of their Ornaments, and the Suitableness of the several Parts of the Horse's Furniture with those of their own Dress, on so momentous an Occasion; where the Eyes of all were on every one, and there was a Rivalry in Taste and Splendor; thus where Glory lay at Stake, well might the Judge's Lady burst into such a Passion at an Indignity by which her Beauty must suffer an Eclipse, and that of her Companion receive an additional Radiancy: However she put a Constraint upon her Irascibility, till the Arrival of the Coach, but her Looks betrayed to every Observer the latent Pain of that Constraint.

In order to bring this Affair to the speediest Issue, and settle the Fluctuations of both Parties, and indeed of the whole Town (for their Quarrel had transpired, and all warmly interested themselves where they had no Concern) it was agreed at the Motion of a pacific Gentlewoman, that the Boxes should be immediately brought from the Inn to the Judge's House, where *M. de St. Aymar* should come with a Second to open hers. There was now only Sunday to wait, and though that Day always seems to move the slowest of the Seven, this was insupportably tedious; but, at length, Monday's Evening Sun saw the wish'd-for Coach arrive. Two
 Servants

Servants who had been ordered to wait its coming, having received the Boxes, hurried with them to Madam *de Melleville's*, where M. *de St. Aymar* had taken care to be before, not without a trusty She-Friend. A strange Scene of Diffimulation enlivened by some Strictures of Spight passed between both Sides till the Causes of a declared War were brought into the Chamber; the Judge's Lady upon seeing them, having discretely ordered the Servants out of the Room as improper to assist at such a delicate Transaction, which either way would be attended with extraordinary Circumstances, said, Come, without any Preamble, let us first see what fine Things this Box contains, which was M. *de St. Aymar's*; the first Object which appeared, was a lively Rose-coloured Sack, with a compleat White Assortment and in a Taste so new, that it had not spread beyond the † *Thuilleries*. If the Sight of such a charming Dress made Madam *de St. Aymar's* Eyes sparkle with

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Triumph,

† The *Thuilleries* is a Palace at *Paris* built in 1564, by Catherine of Medicis Queen to Henry II. and Mother to the Sanguinary Charles IX. Lewis XIV. who delighted in Grandeur in every Thing, joined it to the Louvre, by a very long and most magnificent Gallery; the Gardens of this Palace border on the Seine, are very spacious and full of exquisite Decorations, as Statues, Fountains, &c. It is the St. James's Park to the Beau-monde of *Paris*, being open to all who make a genteel Figure, and only to such. In these Gardens, every new Fashion of Dress makes its first Appearance.

Triumph, no less did a livid Envy cloud the natural Loveliness of Madam *de Melleville*.

To this Object, which had raised such opposite Emotions, succeeded another still more interesting; the Aigrets, the Tossels, the Reins, and all the other Pieces of the Horse-Furniture were taken out and spread on the Floor: There are Beauties, cried one, they are enchanting, said another, the Judge's Lady alone looked on them with a sullen Indifference; for if she had an uncommon share of Beauty, the World would be still more unhappy than it is, had all Women as much Malevolence in their Composition.

Her own Box, which was to give the decisive Turn to her Passions, proved so difficult to open, that they were obliged to have Recourse to a Carpenter, as if Fates pleased with their constant Harmony, was for protracting its Dissolution; the Coach also, by a Mischance on the Road, came in some Hours later than usual; the Artizan being withdrawn, the Ladies stood motionless, looking at each other, absorb'd in Anxiety, and in a Company of no less than seven Women there was a general Silence for above a Minute, till a neutral Lady advancing with a Tremor of ill Omen entered upon the *Eclaircissement*——but Heavens! what a Consternation seized the tender-hearted
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Mediators,

Mediators, at the Sight of a blue Sack with Isabella Trimmings: The officious Hand which had began to take it out recoiled with Fright, and the fatal Robe drop'd again into the Box. All is said, there is no need of Repetitions, Madam, to such a wise Person as you, cried the Judge's Lady casting an inflamed Look of Envy and Disdain at the Governante, You are a pretty Creature indeed, for me to be a Foil to; now go and pay for your elegant Whites and Greens.

Madam *de St. Aymar* could hardly stammer out the Suggestions of her vindictive Heart; all is said, No, No, Lady Envy, all is not said: If there is any Law in France, I'll bring down that Pride of yours, and make your beggarly Stinginess bleed plentifully, though he is but a petty Judge, it will be no more than what your Husband's Profits, which to be sure are all very honourable, can easily afford. Having vented herself in this Retort, she furiously snatch'd up her Rose-coloured Robe, and, flew out of that detested House. Her little Head was busied in a thousand Machinations, for that Revenge which would most mortify her Adversary; though circumstanced as she was, it was requisite her Thoughts should have run in another Channel; no slender Difficulty offered itself at first, her Husband was not only out of Town,
but

but as he had been with great Difficulty persuaded to contribute one half for those Gewgaws as he called the Trappings, with what Face or what Hope of Success, could she tell him that the Whole must come out of his Pocket! Another Perplexity was, that she had no Time left to extricate herself, her good Aunt after letting her know that very few would have been at the Fatigue or advanced so much Money, peremptorily required to be reimbursed by the Return of the Coach: and to comply with such a hasty Demand was infinitely beyond the Reach of the gay *Madam de St. Aymar's* Purse, she having much Ado to make both Ends meet in any tolerable Manner, with the scanty Allowance to which she was limited by her Husband, though that was full as much as he could afford; nor was he to be at Home till Saturday, and the Coach sat out on Friday.

Stimulated by the Affront, and pressed by the Emergency, in which a Failure without a valid Excuse would have ruined her with her Aunt, she came to a Resolution of bringing an Action against the Judge's Lady, to frighten or compel her into the immediate Payment of her Quota; but among the Multitude of Officers for which that Town is peculiarly infamous, not one could be found who would venture on such a ticklish Business as to enter the Chief Justice's House with a Summons.

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The Answer of them all was, Lord, Madam, it is as much as our Bread is worth, He'd make us smart for it. Thus the Means of an immediate Revenge or Relief failing her, Madam *de St. Aymar's* only Resource, and that extremely against the Grain, was to send her Aunt a full Detail, how fair I know not, of her Embarrassments, expressing the most fervent Acknowledgments of her Kindness, and no less Detestation of that Jealousy and Stinginess which laid her under the torturing Necessity of being ungrateful to such a Benefactress, and desiring her to send a proper Minister to execute her Revenge.

Her Agitations were beginning to subside, and she had taken her Pen in Hand when all her Passion was kindled into a redoubled Combustion; two Maids from her Antagonists, who had taken Care by their Giggling and Gabbling, to draw all the Neighbourhood into the Street; after thundering at her Door, bolted into her Parlour, and having thrown down the Harnesses, without so much as a Word, or a Curt'sy, turned Tail, and ran out of the House laughing louder than at first, scuddling Home to make their Lady easy about the Event of this discrete Expedition. I question if the martial Spirit of Henry V. of *England* was more enflamed at the Sight of the Tennis-balls which King Lewis, I think it was, of *France*,
imprudently

imprudently sent him in Derision of his Youth. Her Rage at this Procedure, added such an energetical Acrimony to her Pen, the Refusal of Payment succeeded by such an Outrage, was set forth with such strong Exaggerations, that they had all the wish'd-for Effect, and Money was no longer the Point with the Aunt, but a speedy Revenge for such a Complication of Dishonesty and Insolence. In *Paris*, a Person of any Acquaintance, is at no Loss to procure Agents for Affairs of all Kinds : The resentful Aunt soon found an Officer audacious enough to stand the Brunt of the Resentment of a Country Judge ; him she dispatched away Post with this extraordinary Letter to her Niece.

Dear NIECE,

IF ever you are reconciled to that scandalous cheating Woman, I'll have done with you ? Maintain the Honour of our Family to the utmost, I'll make my Husband send you Instructions how to follow the Summons to the Rigour of the Law : The Bearer is the Officer, he is a cunning bold Fellow ; he'll go through with it, if it was a Writ against the Queen : Don't mind your easy Husband, I charge you, he'll put up with any Thing, but before you come to Terms send them to me ; I'll take care you shan't be bubbled and her Mushroom Ladyship shall know what it is so imprudently to affront any of the *Girardons*, &c.

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The Officer made such Expedition, that by Saturday he reached the Scene of Contention, which he was to be an Instrument of inflaming. In this Interval Matters remained quite disjointed. Neither of the Ladies would comply with the Conference which had been mediated ; their Partisans visited them assiduouſly ; a few faintly inclining to an Accommodation, many others infidiously widening the Breach : But the Care in which they were all unanimous, was, what would become of next Sunday's Airing, which was to usher in the Season, and which by these Feuds was threatned with an Intermiſſion ; however, the Vexation of putting it off till the Sunday following, was abated by a fortunate Rain, which laſting the whole Day, would, without this unhappy Incident, have diſappointed the Ladies in their Diverſion.

The intrepid Veteran in Judicial-exploits waited on Madame *de St. Aymar* ; at the Sight of him, the approaching Gratification of her Revenge took the Aſcendant over every other Paſſion, and ſhe welcomed him with the beſt in her Houſe ; ſhe had now undergone a Confinement ever ſince Monday, but without a Moment's Solitude, for Vice being more ardent than Virtue in the Perſuit of its Views, ſhe had been inceſſantly obſeded by her Intimates, though theſe were few, as ſhe was not on a Level with her Adverſary in Rank, Riches and

Authority ; and of these, some, like the Counsellors of more eminent Personages, knowing her blind Side, under the Colour of Zeal for her Honour, put her upon Measures tending to widen the Breach ; and indeed to promote an irreconcilable Quarrel betwixt these two Rivals was the Drift in which the Bulk of the Females concurred, being exasperated at the growing Superiority which they affected, pluming themselves with their Husbands Offices and their own personal Accomplishments : The Appearance at Madam *de Melleville's* was by far most numerous, and the Councils as inflammatory ; few having the Assurance to observe a Neutrality, much less to declare openly against the Spouse of the Chief Justice. The Delivery of the Dauphiness was not expected with that Anxiety and Impatience as the Issue of this Horse-furniture Contest ; which was necessarily to remain in Suspence till Mr. *de St. Aymar's* Return.

This was not more longed for by his own affectionate Bride, than by her virulent Adversary, who was determined to be loud and speedy in her Clamours against his Wife's Behaviour ; Madame *de St. Aymar* had, however, one and that no light Trouble upon her Spirits ; knowing her Husband to be of all Men in the World the exactest Observer of that Precept of the Apostle, *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all Men*, she was sensible of

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incurring her Husband's Displeasure by any vivacious Proceedings ; but her Revenge, too impetuous to consult with his Mildness about a Redress, took the Ascendant over this prudent Fear ; the Stile of the Bill of Complaint she left to the Officer, who was no Novice in setting forth the slightest Offences in the most aggravating Colours ; so that even her Spirit thought it did not want a Word of its proper Force : The Officer, being fully instructed in every Particular necessary to the right Execution of the Enterprize, managed it with such Address, taking the Judge's Dinner-time, that the Summons was delivered and he got clear off without any Noise or Pursuit ; being returned, " Madam," said he with an Air which spoke his Sense of his own Intrepidity, and the Value of the Service, " I have drove the Nail to the Head, the Game is your own ; but as this Town will soon be too hot for me, you'll please to give me the hundred Livres according to your Aunt's Bargain, that I may post away out of the Judge's Reach."—" Bless me, Sir ! sure you exact !" answered Madame *de St. Aymar*, almost fainting with Surprise : Nor let her be arraigned of Pusillanimity ; for to one who was not Mistress of a single Louis, a peremptory Demand of a hundred Livres, and by an obdurate Limb of the Law, is a shocking Thunder-clap ; His

Cafe would not bear any Capitulations, he began already to frown and growl, and satisfied he was to be, or a Scene opened, which would have been a complete Gratification to the Resentment of M. *Melleville* and to the Envy of all the other Ladies; her Mind was under the most torturing Agitations, when her Memory abated them, luckily recollecting an elderly Maiden Lady to whom she might confidently have Recourse in this dreadful Exigency; so ordering a Flask of Wine to be brought, "Dear Sir," said she, "be so kind as to amuse yourself with that, and, upon Honour, I'll be with you in a Minute or two; adieu, Sir."

All this courteous Language was lost upon the savage Bloodsucker; he returned it only with Ill-looks and Oaths, and was already rowling his Eyes about what Furniture to lay his Claws on, if she did not keep to her Time. "Oh, my best, dearest Friend," addressing herself to Miss *du Verger*, cried the distressed Creature, "save me from the saddest Plunge ever poor Mortal was drove to!" This passionate Supplication she enforced with such a Flood of Tears, such a melting Detaile of her Cafe, and such convulsive Gestures, that even a more flinty Disposition than Miss *du Verger's* would have been affected: She took the desired Sum in Gold out of an old Trunk, and after giving it many a tender Farewell-look,

look, whilst *Madam de St. Aymar* was writing a Note payable in a Fortnight, put it into her Hands, who, in a Transport of Joy, kissing her Benefactress, hurried to satisfy the rapacious Minister of her Revenge, who now was plotting Mischief against herself.

To one of *Madam de St. Aymar's* Age and Temper, the present is all ; a Day, an Hour gained, is a mighty Victory ; the Consequences of an Expedient to avert the impending Evil do not present themselves to their Thoughts, or are hindered, by present Perturbations, from making any effectual Impressions. At her Return, without offering a Word at any Abatement, she gaily said to the Officer, " You see, Sir, I'm a Woman of Honour as well as Spirit ; there's your Demand, and I wish you well to *Paris*——Oh ! my Duty to my Aunt, and that you have fully answered her Character of you : " So away galloped the Officer, highly contented with the Reward and Success of his Expedition.

But whilst *Madam de St. Aymar* was taken up with dismissing her Officer, every Thing was in an Uproar at *Madam de Melleville's*, whose justiciary Pride was wounded to the quick by such an Insult ; an Insult, cried she, beyond all bearing by a Woman of my Rank ! I'll turn the Town inside-out but I'll find out the audacious Villain
who

who dared to be the Tool of that saucy Minx, I'll—Here the Judge took the Liberty to offer some lenient Advice ; “ Compose yourself, my Dear, such Doings belong only to such low-lived Creatures as *St. Aymar* ; your Passion does her too much Honour ; her Husband, who is too good for her, will be at home to-night ; he is the Principal, and him I'll summon to a Meeting of the most creditable Persons of the Town, and their Opinion, which (as I must not openly be Judge and Party) I may well presume will not put a formal Affront upon me, shall decide the Matter.” This plausible Reasoning, his Lady would not yield to ; the Affront was too monstrous, his Honour was trampled upon. However, with Intreaties and Promises, he gained her Acquiescence. “ Well,” said she, “ this is Patience indeed ; for an Action to be laid against a Chief Judge's Lady, and then be hushed up in a private Meeting of Country Gentlemen !

M. *St. Aymar*, according to Expectation, arrived in the Evening. His Spouse, to give her Tale the more specious Appearance, after welcoming him with a joyful Embrace, collected herself into the most placid Composure, whilst she related every Circumstance of the Dispute ; it is indeed whispered, that she palliated some and magnified others ; that she added and
omitted

omitted : It is not unlikely, critical as her Situation was, had she not made a little free with the Truth to save herself, her Veracity would have been unprecedented ; 'tis true, *Corneille* puts in the Mouth of one of his rigid Heroes,

*To purchase Life by Falshood ! no, this
Heart,
Candid and firm, shall ne'er from Truth de-
part.*

But surely some Allowance is due to the Sex, and to a young Lady brought up in Ease and Delicacy, and taught to postpone every Consideration to her own Safety and Advantage. However, as Honesty is ever the best Policy, all her Blandishments and Representations could not hinder her Husband's Visage from lengthening at the Recital of what seemed to portend Trouble, Expence, and Animosity ; but before he could explain himself, a Messenger brought him Word, that the Chief Justice desired to see him : The Abruptness with which he left his Spouse confirmed to her the physiological Indications of his Disquietude. The prudent Chief Justice, to guard against the Excesses of his enraged Wife, received M. *St. Aymar* alone in his Closet : " Here's hot Doings," said he, " betwixt our Wives ; perhaps our wisest Way would be, not to concern

concern ourselves about their Bickerings ; but really *Madam de St. Aymar* has acted such a violent Part, has offered such an Outrage to my Wife, that so far from blaming her Resentment, I cannot but enter into it ; on the other Hand, I should be very loth that any Variance should take Root so far as to spoil the Good-humour of our sociable Town, splitting it into Parties, and soon or late, (which would give me no less Concern,) deprive me of the Pleasure of your Friendship ; therefore, let me beg of you, tell me roundly your Opinion, and to what amicable Expedient you are disposed."

The Governor suspected that the Information his Wife had given him was partial and disguised, yet, also, was he not wanting to perceive, that the main Rub lay in the Vanity and Stinginess of *Madam de Melleville* : Had *St. Aymar's* Circumstances been equal to his Liberality, it is probable he would have set down with the whole Charge of the Trappings, and every Thing had been made easy without any further Stir ; besides, he thought his Wife absolutely wrong in acting of her own Head, where another, and her Superior, was equally concerned, and especially the Summons seemed an unaccountable Rashness ; yet to sacrifice her as the Dupe of her haughty Adversary, and be saddled with the whole Charge of their
extra-

extravagant Coquetry, was what he could not bring himself to ; so declining to give his Opinion, " What do you think, Sir," said he, " of referring this idle Broil to a Knot of Friends, and so let By-gones be By-gones." " Well spoke," answered the Judge, " my own very Thoughts, and I am so perswaded of your Candour, that let Seven be the Number, and to your Nomination I leave them ; appoint them the Coffeehouse Dining-room without Fail at ten To-morrow-morning." These Preliminaries being settled, the two venerable Magistrates parted entire Friends, and M. *St. Aymar*, at his Return, cut short his Wife, who was entering upon a second Detail, and desired his Ears might not be dinned with a Word more of it, till the Arbitrators, of whom he acquainted her, had given their Verdict.

The Gentlemen, in Return for the Compliment of electing them to decide a Variance, by which the Tranquillity of the Town already began to totter, kept the Appointment to a Man, and the Sagacity of an old Counsellor, whose Age intitled him to take the Lead of the Assembly, put a speedy End to their Session, drawling out this judicious Harangue : " Gentlemen, this is a Case as plain as a Pike-staff ; why, common Equity, common Sense, clears it without more ado : Let that blue Sack,

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which,

which, it seems, is the Stumbling-block, fall to the Lot of Madam *de St. Aymar*, as a Mortification due to her Trespas for acting arbitrarily in Contempt of the worthy Judge's Lady, on a Point calculated with such wise Forecast for heightening the Lustre of the Beauty of both Ladies, and consequently in which both were equally interested; and, for that enchanting rose-coloured Robe, together with all its Appurtenances, let that be adjudged to Madam *de Melleville*, as a Compensation for the Indignity offered to her Ladyship; but more especially, as a Recompence due to her exquisite Fancy and delicate Discernment in the Assortment of Colours, provided nevertheless, that upon such an Exchange of the Premises, she shall, without any Appeal or Delay, pay the Sum so justly demanded of her for the Moiety of the Trappings, as the Trappings were not only bought by her Consent, but now, by this Transfer of the Habits, the Superiority of her Rank and the Brilliancy of her Person will be displayed to the Fulness of her Desires."—The Room rung with, *nothing can be better said! a Solomon's Sentence! be it so, there can be no Objection!*

In Reality, all the Interested found their Account pretty well one Way or other, in this applauded Sentence; if it bore hardest on Madam *de St. Aymar*, she had also run herself

herself deeply into the Blame by her last wild Procedure. The Justice's Lady bridled her Pique at the Counsellor's Sarcastm, and gladly sacrificed her sordid Parsimony to the high Gust of figuring at the Expence of her Antagonist ; the Justice was not more open-handed, but conscious that the Money must come down soon or late, put on a Feint of Satisfaction, and, with a Laugh from the Lips outward, " Brother," said he to the sapient Arbitrator, " I am ready to comply, and if this Process reaches the Drawing-room, all the Court Ladies will join Interest for your being made a President." Mr. *St. Aymar*, with a sincere Alacrity, paid his Compliments ; for besides bringing a little Money into his Pocket, which was a scarce Commodity with the honest Gentleman, he hoped that such a mortifying Issue would check the imprudent Career in which his giddy Wife was driving so precipitately. The Convulsions into which this fulminating Sentence threw *Madam de St. Aymar* exceed the utmost Energy of Words ; to give up that Robe which had filled her Mind with such rapturous Ideas of Distinction and Triumph ! and to give it up to her Rival, so disordered her weak Mind, that, for the first Time, she forgot that strict Respect she had always observed to her Husband, " Is this your Adoration ! —suffer me thus to be trampled upon by

that stingy, proud, upstart Vixen!—fy on your Mean-spiritedness — would to God that” — Her worthy Husband kept his Temper under such an undeserved Rattle, and for a long Time endeavoured to compose her by soft Words and Endearments, till seeing his Lenity availed nothing, he went a shorter Way to Work, and exerted a Resolution, not uncommon in the best Tempers, upon an excessive Abuse of their Indulgence ; amidst the Shrieks, Clamours, Intreaties, Objurations and Agonies of his frantic Wife, he took the rose-coloured Sack, with its Accompanyments, according to the full Extent of the Sentence, and would carry them himself to the Justice's Lady, that he might receive the Sum in which she had been condemned, and bring away the blue with Isabella Trimmings : Thus making the first Advance to close this Variance, which was so near throwing a good-natured, populous Town, into Confusion and Enmity.

Madam *de Melleville*, with all her Arrogance, was a little disconcerted at this submissive Visit ; but soon rising above what she thought Weakness, recollected all her Spirit, and with a composed Effrontery, said to M. *de St. Aymar*, “ Truly, Sir, it gives me an extreme Concern, that the Sentence lays me under a Necessity of giving some little Disquietude to Madam *de St. Aymar*,
with

with whose Temper and Person I was so infinitely charmed ; 'tis a thousand Pities, that she suffered herself to be carried away to such an Excess ; be so good as to assure her, that my sincere Friendship for her will not permit me to remember her Outrage."

M. *St. Aymar*, though incensed at the Impertinence of this double-tongued Woman, let her run on to the Conclusion of her hypocritical Speech : " But, Madam," said he, " in your Concern at my Wife's Mortification, (not so very great, I hope,) you forget the third Article of the Sentence ; you forget, Madam, the Money." These Words went directly to her Heart, and nothing but the enchanting Certainty of eclipsing her Adversary's Charms, and attracting the Gaze and Adoration of all the Company on the Sunday following, could have supported her in that tremendous Instant.

He returned home, full of humane Concern, that Affluence and Authority, the Instruments of so much Good, should have fallen into such unworthy Hands ; he found his Wife still in Tears ; but at the Sight of the blue Sack all her Agony returned with redoubled Force : She sobbed, threw herself into a thousand Gestures, expressive of the most violent Emotions, which stifled any articulate Speech : Such Affliction in a Stranger, would have melted the good-natured *St. Aymar* ; but, in a Wife whom
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he

he loved, and who was not altogether unworthy of his Love, it cost his Heart a severe Conflict to stand its Ground ; and thus by a wise Effort of Firmness he put a Period to a Contest, which had already begun to set People's Minds a fermenting, and, if indulged, had gone near to have exterminated the Reciprocations of Friendship, and the Pleasures of Intercourse ; and hurried one of the most communicative and joyous Places in the whole Kingdom into such a Scene of Suspicion, Malice and Detraction, as, I hope, is to be found in no Nation. I shudder at the Danger we were in.

However, his Tendernefs would not permit him to see her remain under such Desolation, and a very powerful Lenitive he made Use of to introduce a Joy, which might be an Equipoise to her Anguish ; he put into her Hand the hundred Livres, which, to return to Miss *du Verger* before the Time elapsed, he knew had no small Share in her Agitations, adding, that an Expedient was come into his Head, which, without the least Disgrace to either, would clear her of the Mortification of the first Airing ; but kind Destiny had better Things in Store for her, and by an Accident, quite unforeseen, provided for her triumphant Appearance, to the Confusion of her envenomed Adversary and all her Party.

Early

Early the next Morning, Madam *de St. Aymar* hastened to her stanch Friend Miss *du Verger*, who welcomed the Money with some Drops of Joy ; and such a speedy Return putting her into a Fit of the best Humour in the World, she expressed the kindest Sympathy at the Disaster of her grateful Acquaintance, and that it was ten thousand Pities, a Gentlewoman of her Rank and Spirit should be exposed to the least Derision ; then, to give a gayer Turn to their Talk, she shewed her a Letter which she had received the Evening before, acquainting her that her Niece's Marriage was agreed upon, and that by Wednesday's Coach she would receive a Box with some Wedding-Cloaths, recommended to her to be forwarded to the Place where her Niece lived.

The Dexterity of a *Richlieu*, or a *Porto-carrero*, to strike out Resources or improve the Appearance of Opportunities, does not equal that of a true Woman when the Interest of her Beauty lies at Stake ; in this Letter, which had been shewn her only as Amusement, and as such cursorily read, Madam *de St. Aymar* instantly saw wherewith to extricate herself out of her Disgrace ; and determined it should not be lost for Want of asking.

Wednesday being come, to Miss *du Verger's* she went, an Hour or two before the
Coach

Coach was expected in, carrying with her the blue Sack, that no Time might be lost if Things answered; and to pre-dispose her for a Compliance, entered into all her Sentiments, approved and ridiculed as she did, and with very lively Sallies of Wit: At length the expected Box was brought, and now, amidst Hopes and Fears, she exerted all the Powers of Cajolery; the Prize was of all Things, to her, the most important, and to obtain it she put forth all her Address; she threw her Arms about the Old-Maid, she called her her generous Deliverer, her dearest Creature, her best Friend, and, (as is usual in the momentous Affairs of the World, when other Means make no effectual Impression,) to put the finishing Hand to a Scheme she had so much at Heart, she drew a little Ring of Sparks from her Finger, and even embracing Miss *du Verger's* Knees, with the most seducing Look, intreated her Acceptance of it. It was accepted and the favourite Point carried; the vile Power of a Present preponderated against a Breach of Trust, and the Pacquet was opened to try whether this odious blue Sack could not be changed for one of a more suitable Colour. O fortunate Prodigy! O transporting Compensation for all past Agonies! It was found to contain a rose-coloured Paduasoy Robe,
like

like that of the Justice's Lady, but with white and green Accompaniments, exactly matching the Horse-furniture, and as exactly fitting her Size and Shape. Let Physicians affirm, that from the human Texture, a Person may die of Joy, and let credulous Historians confirm the idle Notion by Instances, there's no such Thing, or Madam *de St. Aymar* must have been of an athletic Constitution indeed ; for never did such an impetuous Flood of Joy break in so suddenly upon any Mortal, as on this Lady at so unexpected a Sight : Yet she survived it ; and the blue Sack with its *Isabella* Trimmings were neatly laid in by these ingenious Ladies, and every Thing being set to Rights, so as to leave no Room for Suspicion, the Box was forwarded ; but, as Truth will come out, the Fraud transpired, and nothing less could be expected, this unlucky Robe was like to have proved the Source of further Commotions, had not Satisfaction been speedily made by Miss *du Verger*, whose Offence was not expiated by the Value of the Ring.

To this Atchievement succeeded a Dish of Tea, over which, the Party obliged poured herself forth in the most passionate Effusions of Love, and Protestations of eternal and unlimited Gratitude ; and the Benefactress magnified her Compliance, and seemed to shudder at the Lengths which

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she

she had run to revenge her distressed Friend : This Colloquy lasted till it grew dark, the favourable Season for Concealment, which the cautious *Madam de St. Aymar* had waited, and now took herself away with her Treasure, more transported with the Success of her Scheme, than was that daring Officer *, when he was carrying under his Cloak the Crown of *England*, which he had stole out of its Repository in the Tower of *London* ; and if his Crime was more atrocious, the Device of the Lady's had more Baseness in it, especially on *Miss du Verger's* Side ; for, as to *Madam de St. Aymar*, who can blame her ? The Exigency was such, such a Complication of the greatest Concerns, Revenge, Ornament and Honour lay at Stake, as warranted any Resources, much more the Request of an unreasonable Favour.

The Fair-sex have every where laboured under an ill Character in Point of Secrecy ; the *Spanish* Proverb says,

*A la Muguér y a la Picáça,
Lo que vieres en la plaza.*

i. e. You may tell a Woman and a Magpy what you have publicly seen.

La Bruyere pays this Compliment to both Sexes, *A Man reveals all Secrets but his own, a Woman reveals both* : An Author has presumed to give this Title to a translated Play

* Colonel *Blood*.

ment, and the two Parties stood silent with Envy and Exultation — Lo ! the blooming Madam *de St. Aymar* entered, like a fresh-blown Rose ; nor did her Looks betray the least Sense of her Advantage : She saluted the Company with a serene Freedom, which enhanced her Triumph. The Unexpectedness of such a charming Appearance, and the Whispers of Admiration which ran through the Hall, exagitated her Ladyship ; and as there is a Consent betwixt the Aspect and the Mind, an inward Complacency spreading an Agreeableness, even where Beauty is wanting : On the contrary, all Madam *de Melleville's* Charms were disfigured by the Tumult of her venomous Passions ; but who can describe her Surprise, her Rage, her Despair, when, casting a Glance at Madam *de St. Aymar*, she saw all her Head-dress to be a Kind of little Cap, decorated with a green and white Feather, giving her a Gracefulness, to which, her own Consciousness told her, she must yield the Prize. The Want of an Ornament which had been omitted in her Assortment, and the open Exultation of the *St. Aymarians* at the Superiority of their Heroine, declared by the rancorous Looks of her Rival, was more than Madam *de Melleville* could well bear ; she was upon declining the Airing, but the Construction which would lie against such a Measure occurring

occurring to her, with a Diffimulation that never cost her any Thing, she put a good Face on so bad a Game, promising herself, over and over, that by the following Sunday she would have a Cap; both in Richness and Elegancy, far surpassing that which had so extremely galled her:

With what Attention and Reverence this fermented Company assisted at Vespers is obvious ; afterwards the grand Affair was for the two Ladies to ascend their Vehicle ; but as this Scene passed in the Eyes of all the fashionable Part of the Town, any Stiffness or Tergiversation would have exposed them to general Censure, so both affected to outdo each other in Chearfulness and Complaisance, and the brilliant Procession began:

However Madam *de St. Aymar* might be elated with such a signal Triumph, she had the Prudence to suppress every Sign of Exultation, behaving with her usual Deference and Unreservedness, and the Day following, at only an Intimation from her Husband, paid a Visit to the Judge's Lady, who at first made but a cold Return to her Advances ; but being reciprocally necessary to each other in their Diversions, the Breach closed a-pace, and there seemed an entire Amnesty and Reconciliation on both Sides ; yet are there not wanting censorious People, who, setting up for a thorough Knowledge
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in the Female-heart, (though one long practised in the Sex owned, that all he knew of them was, that they were not to be known,) maintain, that there is, and ever will be, some Leaven of Grudge betwixt the Heroines of this eventful Piece; a Piece not unworthy to be improved in pompous Strains, like those of the Author of *The Rape of the Lock*, or to be exposed in all its Risibility by the Burlesque of a *Scarron*; however, as this Transaction is a striking Proof of the Evil of all Ambition, whether a Crown or a Sack be its Scope; as the Reader sees a whole friendly sportive Town on the Brink of being involved in Broils by a Fondness for Show, I heartily wish this Example may moderate such a pernicious Propensity, and that my Townswomen, and those of every Town in the World, may recede from any Emulation, when above their Husband's Circumstances, or dangerous to the Harmony of Society.

Accept of my Congratulations at your singular conjugal Felicity; that Madam *de Verduron* is a *St. Aymar* or a *Melleville* only in Person; that Pleasure and Dress are very subordinate Concerns with her; and that though the Housewife and the Shrew be not very remote Predicaments, yet with
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all the Care, Economy, and Exactness of the former.

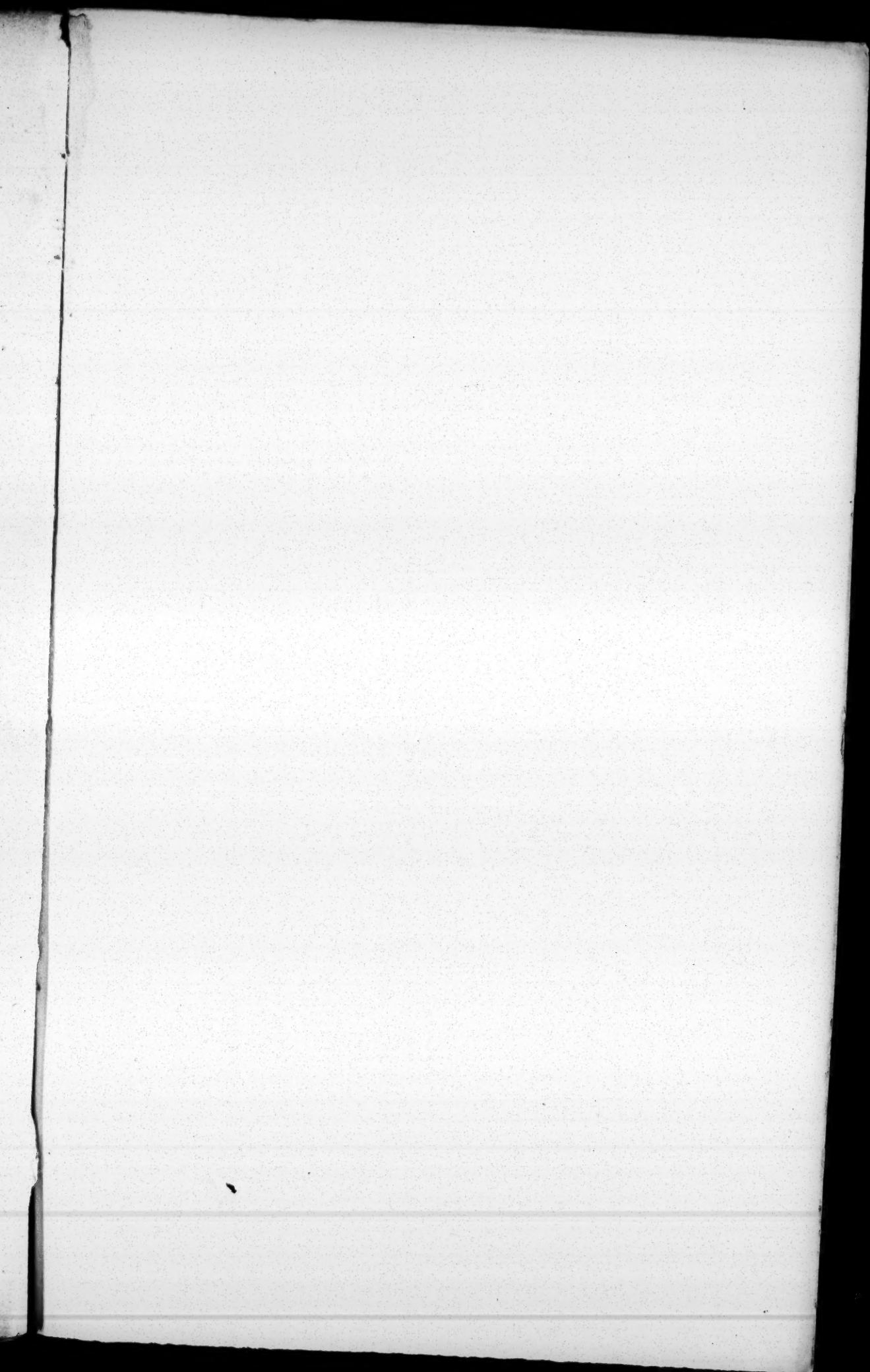
Not one jarring Atom in her is found,
And Gentleness and Joy make up her Being.

This due Commendation of your Spouse, you must also take as a Compliment to yourself ; for few are the Persons, I assure you, to whom I would thus expatiate in Praise of their Wives, however deserving.

I'll run the Risque of being taxed with Pedantism, in closing a familiar Letter with a Sentence from Cicero : *Nil est aptius ad Delectationem Lectoris quam Temporum Varietates, Fortunæque Vicissitudines : Quæ etsi nobis optabiles in experiendo non fuerunt, in legendo tamen jucundæ.* The *in experiendo non optabiles* was most sensibly verified in me, and that the *legendo jucundæ* may be experienced by you in this Narration is the Wish of him, who besides your Entertainment, is ready to manifest his Attachment by every substantial Good-office in Life,

Being,

S I R, &c.



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